

continued from previous page

in their areas because they believed payphones were a magnet for crime. To solve the problem, the vendors designed P.A.C.NET, built upon a ten point program intended to educate property owners and law enforcement agencies. Fry communicates with police departments, city councils, mayors', etc. to explain P.A.C.Net's good faith intentions to support law enforcement and still remain in business..

Members of P.A.C.NET pledge to honor a ten point program and become partners against crime with the location owner and law enforcement agencies.

The ten point program for P.A.C.NET members goes as follows:

1. P.A.C.NET phones will be well lit and if needed, additional lighting will be installed.
2. Graffiti will be removed within 24 hours upon notification.
3. No incoming calls allowed and there will be Pager call restriction.
4. P.A.C.NET members will relocate problem phones on the premise or

temporarily disable the payphone.

5. Special anticrime reflective signage will be used.

6. P.A.C.NET works with property owners as partners against crime. They are urged to report loitering or any suspected illegal activity to P.A.C.NET for reports to be kept and forwarded to their Police Field Operations Administration.

7. P.A.C.NET phones automatically turn off during specific hours.

8. When needed, P.A.C.NET will install mock or active surveillance equipment. Tapes taken of suspected criminal activities will be given to the police department. (This is not a major investment. This can be bought for less than \$200.)

9. All P.A.C.NET phones store and forward all calling data to central computers so any illegal telephone activities can be turned over to the proper law enforcement agency.

10. P.A.C.NET members will remove immediately any phone that is causing any type of problem to the community, property owner or business.

All P.A.C.NET phones are insured for \$1,000 and are registered with the local police Field Operations Department.

Fry has discovered that when he articulates these items to the local precincts, they accept it with open arms. In one instance, an order of removal was rescinded because the ten point program impressed the law enforcement agency. Fry intends to attend an informal meeting with the San Diego Mayors office in November to present the program to the city council. Fry also intends to solicit interest at the next Regional Tabletop Meeting that is scheduled for January 11, 1996 in Sacramento.

Any interested vendors are encouraged to contact Roger Fry for further information: (619) 753-0871 or (800) 709-8755

Upcoming Regional Meetings and National Shows

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| January 11, 1996 | Regional Tabletop Meeting,
Sacramento |
| March 14, 1996 | Regional Tabletop Meeting,
Los Angeles |
| April 10-12, 1996 | APCC Western Conference
& Expo, Las Vegas, NV |
| June 13, 1996 | Regional Tabletop Meeting,
San Francisco |
| September 19, 1996 | Regional Tabletop Meeting,
San Diego |
| October 9-11, 1996 | APCC Eastern Conference
& Expo, Nashville, TN |

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MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1994

Rotary Pay Phones Return, This Time to Foil Drug Deals

By DOUGLAS MARTIN
Special to The New York Times

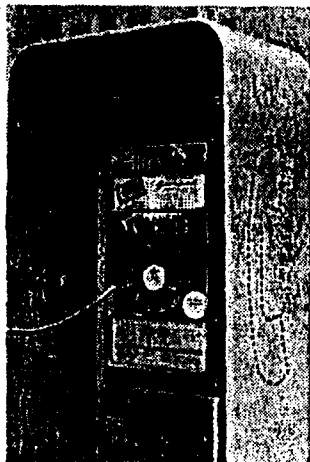
NEW YORK, Jan. 9 — At Eighth Avenue and West 45th Street are three pay telephones. A man looks at the first, shakes his head and goes to the second. He rolls his eyes and moves to the third. Finally, he shrugs, shoves in a quarter and dials — methodically putting his index finger in the little hole over each number and turning the dial seven times.

"I don't like it," said the man, Jimmie Tomlin. "It takes too long to dial and I've got places to go."

Three decades after buttons began to replace rotary dials on American phones, time has reversed itself at about 250 outdoor pay phones in New York City. Responding to appeals from community groups trying to stop drug dealers from using public phones to do business, Nynex, formerly New York Telephone, has brought back old-fashioned dialing.

Astonishment seems the most prevalent response. "It wakes you up a little," said Willie Campbell, a cabdriver who pulled over to the Eighth Avenue phone to call his sister. "It's an eye-opener."

It is the boldest tactic in a campaign that began with improving lighting,



Henry Street/The New York Times

moving phones away from problem areas, then disabling phones so they cannot receive incoming calls. About a quarter of Nynex's 8,400 street phones do not take incoming calls. Now the company is taking rotary pay phones, which are no longer made in the United States, out of storage.

"The rotary dial is a step backward technologically, but it prevents a drug dealer from paging a customer or run-

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Rotary Pay Phones Return to New York in a Bid to Foil Drug Deals

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ner," said Steven Marcus, a Nynex spokesman, who said the change was made as "an absolute last resort," since the phones cannot take advantage of many new services, like voice mail, that rely on push-button phones.

Phone company officials acknowledge that the rotary-phone tactic is not foolproof: callers can use a device called a tone dialer, which is sold for about \$15 at electronics stores, to send tone signals over a phone with a rotary dial. But they say the devices do not appear to have caught on.

Helping Community Groups

Phone companies in other areas have also brought back rotary pay phones on drug-infested corners, though not on a widespread basis. "We really do it as one of the last resorts as a response to community concerns," said Beverly Levy, spokeswoman for Southern New England Telephone, which serves most of Connecticut.

Phillip Jones, a spokesman for Ameritech, which serves Illinois, Mich-

Why use a low-tech tactic on crime? You can't dial a beeper.

igan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Ohio, said "We have used it upon occasion, but not widely."

Officials of phone companies in New Jersey and California said they had examined bringing back rotary dial phones, then rejected the idea. "Rotary is more subject to vandalism than Touch-Tone" because the dials can be pried off, said James W. Carrigan, a spokesman for Bell Atlantic, which serves New Jersey.

Mr. Marcus said Nynex decided to use rotary phones at corners where other measures have failed. It installs them only after being formally asked by a community board or other neighborhood group, he said.

"Sleazeballs congregated there, and they're not the kind of people you want hanging out on your corner," said Jay Devlin, an actor and writer who, as

president of the 45th Street Block Association, led the fight to persuade Nynex to bring rotary phones back to his corner in the Times Square district several months ago.

"The drug dealers now rarely use that corner, and certainly not to make calls," Mr. Devlin said.

Every borough but Staten Island has some rotary pay phones. Areas of particular concentration are the Clinton and Washington Heights neighborhoods of Manhattan and parts of Astoria, Queens, Mr. Marcus said.

This success has prompted Community Board 4, which represents the Chelsea and Clinton neighborhoods of Manhattan, to ask for more rotary phones in the area. It wants Nynex to install 24 rotary phones on Ninth Avenue between 17th and 43d Streets; 12 on Eighth Avenue between 29th and 33d Streets, and 6 on 10th Avenue between 47th and 49th Streets.

"The benefits of putting back rotary far outweighed the hindrance to local people," said Tim Gay, co-chairman of the board's quality of life committee, even though some Ninth Avenue residents have no phones at home and

depend on outdoor pay phones.

"This is one of the simpler device for making it harder to deal drugs," he said. Nynex has agreed to block incoming calls on 75 of the phones, with work starting in the next few days. It is still weighing how many of these to convert to rotary, Mr. Marcus said.

For innocent users, the rotary phones have evoked mixed responses. "This is too much of a headache," said Shalita Corin, a cabdriver. But Loul Elias, a messenger, smiled broadly and said, "It doesn't bother me at all."

Brian Hendry, a banker, said crisply "Big surprise. Prefer push button."

To be sure, the rebirth of rotary pay phones has an inherent limit: nobody in the United States makes them; any more, and Nynex just happened to have a few hundred on hand.

"Even if we had an unlimited supply it's not something we'd want to do widely just because it restricts service so," Mr. Marcus said.

Mr. Gay, a writer and public-relations man, takes a bit more poetic view. "It's like Checker cabs," he said. "After they break down, they are more."